

# SESSION PRIORITIES - 2003

## Transportation Solutions

Seattle is committed to maintaining and improving the existing transportation system, investing in a broad range of transportation modes and programs to increase mobility for people and freight and advocating for additional transportation funding. Specifically the City supports:

- A comprehensive funding plan to provide safe and efficient travel on State Route 99 from SR-509 to Lake Union (the Alaskan Way Viaduct) that includes increased state support for the project.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** It has been thirteen years since the state legislature passed a gas tax increase and major transportation infrastructure legislation. On the 104<sup>th</sup> day of the session a 10-year, almost \$4.2 billion revenue package was approved (**ESHB 1163**). This highway-focused package begins the process of moving forward on “mega-projects” in the Puget Sound region and addressing other statewide projects. Roughly, \$600 million of this transportation package will go towards non-roads transit/multi-modal projects such as passenger and freight rail projects, and ferry terminal improvements.

The revenue package is centered on a five-cent gas tax increase that brings the state tax to 28 cents effective July 1. Included in the package is a 0.3 percent transfer fee on new and used cars, a 15 percent increase on gross weight fees on trucks, and bonding of the revenue over 30 years.

Funding includes but is not limited to:

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Alaskan Way Viaduct                  | \$177,000,000 |
| I-520 Bridge                         | \$55,800,000  |
| SR 519, Phase II                     | \$38,000,000  |
| I-90 lane reconfiguration            | \$15,000,000  |
| SR 99/Aurora N Corridor              | \$10,000,000  |
| South Lake Union Streetcar           | \$3,000,000   |
| I-520 Noise Walls                    | \$3,500,000   |
| I-5 Corridor EIS                     | \$10,300,000  |
| I-5 Concrete Rehabilitation          | \$135,000,000 |
| Local Distribution                   | \$0           |
| Local Freight Mobility               | \$0           |
| *King Street Station Improvements    | \$8.8         |
| *ITS Projects                        | \$23.6        |
| *Seattle Ferry Terminal Improvements | \$168.5       |

\* Current Law Budget

**Legislative Action:** The transportation budget included language requested by the Seattle Popular Monorail Authority (SPMA) that allows all remaining debt to be paid off, through the ongoing collection of MVET, if the SPMA is dissolved by a vote of the people. Also included is language stating that no debt (bonds) could be incurred until 30 days after the final EIS is complete and that the first bond issue must be limited to the amount of the project costs over the subsequent two years as documented by a certified engineer or submitted bids.

- Amendments to enhance the Regional Transportation Investment District statute to reflect ongoing discussions among stakeholders and address needed

technical changes so that the legislation more comprehensively meets the region's needs.

#### Passed Legislation

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The Legislature passed two bills requested by the RTID Executive Board (**ESB 5247** and **SB 5769**). **ESB 5247** allows a local fuel tax, no higher than 10 percent of the state gas tax or 2.8 cents, to be included in the three-county RTID proposal. The RTID Executive Board request was for up to a six-cent fuel tax with an automatic inflationary increase. **SB 5769** clarifies the bonding authority for the RTID however provide the authority to use additional state debt backed by gas tax revenues.

#### Other Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The Executive Board also requested two provisions in **SHB 2209**, expanding project eligibility and clarifying the tolling authority for the RTID. It did not pass out of the House. The City **supported** this legislation.

- Preserving the governance and financial structure set forth in the statute authorizing a Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit).

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** While a number of bills were introduced that affected Sound Transit governance and financial structure, all of these bills failed. The City **opposed** the following bills:

**SB 5632** would require Sound Transit to pay for the cost of removal or relocation of utilities. This bill passed the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor at the request of the City and others.

**SB 6084** allows private utilities to choose between current utility relocation agreements with Sound Transit. Sound Transit would pay beginning December 31, 2009, all relocation costs. The Senate passed this bill during the special session but the House failed to take any action.

**SSB 5537** requires another vote on light rail and a redirection of current resources. This bill passed the Senate but never came out of the House Transportation Committee.

**ESSB 5538** requires direct elections of Sound Transit Board members. It passed the Senate but never came out of the House Transportation Committee.

**HB 1963** revises the make-up of the Sound Transit Board. Each County Executive would appoint one member from their county. The mayor from the largest city in each county, plus the mayor of any additional city with over 100,000 people, would appoint one member apiece. The Governor would appoint two members. The House did not take action on this bill.

- Providing municipalities adequate funding options to allow cities to meet local transportation needs.

**Legislative Action:** The House did not pass **HB 1735**, which would have provided local government the option of implementing a street utility service fee for street preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

**Legislative Action:** The transportation package did not include any additional local distribution to local governments, additional funding for the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), or funding for local freight mobility projects.

### **Protect Local Revenues and Increase Local Revenue Options**

Seattle supports efforts to maintain and enhance local taxing authority and local revenue options to provide greater flexibility for municipalities in order to fulfill federal

and state mandated responsibilities and meet the needs of our communities while opposing additional unfunded mandates. The City supports efforts to:

- Maintain current local taxing authority. This includes:
  - The B & O tax system.

#### Passed Legislation

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Two bills that affect cities ability to levy the local Business and Occupation Tax passed the legislature and the Governor signed them. These bills will go into effect July 27, 2003.

**ESHB 1462** prohibits cities from the taxation of intellectual property as a manufacturing activity beginning January 1, 2004. It is anticipated that this legislation will mean a loss of approximately \$1,500,000 in general fund revenue to the city.

**EBH 2030** ensures that cities with a local B&O tax implement a model ordinance no later than December 31, 2004. It directs the department of revenue to conduct a study of the net fiscal impacts of this act, with particular emphasis on the revenue impacts of the apportionment and allocation method contained in section 13 of this act and any revenue impact resulting from the increased uniformity and consistency provided through the model ordinance. In addition, it declares intent through this study to provide recommended options to alleviate revenue impacts from this act. Due to the inclusion of apportionment in the bill, it is anticipated that this legislation will mean a loss of an estimated \$15,000,000 in general fund revenue to the city beginning in 2008 and over \$30 million for all B&O cities. The Senate companion bill was SB 5900. The City **opposed** these bills.

- Protecting city cable and utility tax authority.

#### Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Utility Taxes:** Four different bills were introduced that would have changed the way that utilities could be taxed. **HB 1004** would change gas and electricity tax provisions from the current public utility tax to a use tax based on the number of kilowatt-hours of electricity. **SHB 1316** includes the provisions of HB 1004, but taxes at a lower rate and would have placed cities with generation under the privilege tax. **HB 1365** also would have changed utility taxation. **HB 1552** deals with lost utility tax revenue from the ability of some large customers to buy electricity on the open market. **HB 1316** passed out of the House Technology, Telecommunications & Energy Committee with only an intent section and was referred to the House Finance Committee. The session ended without a major overhaul of utility taxes. The City **opposed** HB 1004, SHB 1316 and HB 1365.

- Enhance local options. These could include:

#### Passed Legislation

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Several bills relating to local option taxing authorities were introduced this year. A key component to any of these bills is voter approval of any revenue measure. **ESSB 5659** allows a countywide 0.3 percent sales tax increase. The revenue would be distributed to the county (60 percent) and the rest would go on a per capita basis to the cities. One-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes. Originally, this bill included an increase in the local property tax. That piece was removed and a lid lift provision was added. This bill was passed by the legislature during the special session. The Governor signed the bill on June 20. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 2197**, a bill implementing Initiative Measure No. 790 and **HB 2198**, removing the allocation of excess earnings from section 6 of Initiative Measure No. 790, unanimously passed the House and Senate. On April 23, the Governor signed the bills into law.

#### Other Bills of Interest

**HB 2098** and **SB 6006** included a voter approved sales tax increase, a property tax increase and a council approved utility tax for unincorporated areas. Neither bill moved forward. The City **supported** these bills.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SHB 1900** would have expanded the use of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to include law enforcement, fire protection, or judicial facilities. This bill was heard and passed out of the House Local Government Committee, but it did not receive further consideration in the House.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: 2SHB 1274** changes the interest rate, when appealing a court decision, to four percent above the Treasury bill rate, instead of the current 12 percent fixed rate. This bill did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. The City **supported** this bill.

- Authorizing multi-year levy lid lifts to allow for a larger growth factor.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SHB 1518** provides authority for cities and counties to put forward a voter approved property tax increase of over one percent for up to six years. Although the original bill did not pass out of the House, **ESSB 5659** (see above) was amended to include this provision.

- Expanding opportunities for local jurisdictions to recapture the cost of services through registration and user fees.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** No action occurred regarding this specific issue.

- Countywide options to provide a robust revenue supply dedicated to public health.

#### Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Companion bills (**SB 5920** and **HB 2070**) were introduced to create a dedicated source of funding for public health, but they did not move far in the process. These bills called for a statewide voter approved property tax increase of 25 cents per \$1,000 assessed value solely for local public health departments and districts. This proposal would have raised approximately \$140,000,000 statewide. Seattle-KC Public Health Department would have received roughly \$65 million. Although the bill was not amended, there was talk of decreasing the proposal to 19 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. These bills received hearings in both chambers, but were never voted on in their respective committees. The City **supported** this legislation.

### **Preserve State Funding**

Seattle supports maintaining adequate state funding for programs affected by recent statewide initiatives, legislative action and the economic downturn. These programs have a profound impact on the quality of life for thousands of vulnerable members of our community including seniors, people with disabilities, the mentally ill and chemically dependent, refugees, immigrants, and children of all ages. The City supports efforts to:

- Enhance current state funding (formerly MVET replacement) for public health with an ongoing, reliable, and growing revenue source.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** As discussed above, legislation was introduced (**SB 5920** and **HB 2070**) to provide a voter approved, ongoing local funding source for public health. Unfortunately, this legislation did not move forward. However, the legislature did continue to provide public health funding to make up for the loss of MVET funds. The 2003-05 operating budget appropriated \$48,000,000 for public health departments and districts. The Seattle-King County Public Health Department will receive a little over \$9,500,000 for each state fiscal year.

- Preserve the human services safety net including programs that provide food and shelter, early childhood development, general assistance, aid for mental health, and services for refugees and immigrants, aging and disabled persons.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The Legislature negotiated and passed the 2003-2005 Operating Budget during the first special session. The operating budget affected the human services safety net in a number of ways, including program and service reductions on many safety net programs and a number of internal policy changes made to more effectively deliver services to constituents. Overall, the human services safety net programs fared better than expected given the state's \$2.6 billion deficit. Highlights of the areas of related to the City's legislative priority included:

- General Assistance - Unemployable (GAU) will be reduced by almost \$14 million by changing the verification requirements, which will result in a decrease of the number of eligible persons.
  - Elimination of the Medically Indigent Program, which is offset partially by providing additional grants for hospitals.
  - Monthly premiums for children's medical, dental and vision coverage for families with incomes over the poverty level are instituted.
  - Increase in Medicaid eligibility verification, which will result in the decrease of the number of persons eligible for Medicaid.
  - Preservation of funding for immigrant prenatal care for women who are not eligible for Medicaid because of their immigration status.
  - Adult dental services coverage will be reduced by 25 percent.
  - Adult vision services require the federal maximum co-pay.
  - No reduction to community mental health services.
  - Preservation of programs that help youth and families in crisis including Secure and Semi-Secure Crisis Residential Centers, HOPE beds, the Family Policy Council and Community Public Health and Safety Networks, and the Street Youth Program.
  - Appropriation of an additional \$6.4 million for additional foster care services for kids with complex needs.
  - No funding reductions in emergency shelter or food programs.
- Maintain the Health Services Account to provide health care to Washington citizens and preserve the 1998 national tobacco settlement funds for health care and prevention purposes.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The operating budget that was passed projects savings to the Health Services Account of \$158.8 million. This will be accomplished primarily through reduction of the Basic Health Plan enrollment to 100,000 persons or approximately 22,000 less than current enrollment. This reduction will occur through attrition. Moreover, the Initiative 773 directive to expand the Basic Health Plan to 160,000 enrollees, using increased tobacco revenue, has been halted.

- Maintain current funding for priority environmental programs related to water quality, open space, and clean air, recognizing the link between a healthy environment and a healthy community.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The 2003-2005 Operating Budget (**SB 5404**) contains funding relating to the environment including:

- Retains funding for salmon recovery lead entities at \$3.25 million,
- Provides no funding for Regional Recovery Boards,
- Appropriates \$12 million in the Capital Budget for Salmon Recovery Funding Grant,
- Provides \$115,705 for Sand Point north shore development through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Northgate Park Acquisition and University Playground are listed as alternates for funding,
- Provides \$11.5 million for watershed planning grants,
- Provides \$800,000 to fund HB 1002 (Mercury Reduction),
- Retains funding for Growth Management Hearings Boards at \$3 million,
- Provides growth management grants and technical assistance at \$4.7 million,
- Includes \$2 million for shorelines planning; and

- Retains funding for the State Energy Office.

## **Water**

Seattle is committed to ensuring a safe, reliable, high-quality source of drinking water for its citizens and to promoting water conservation, efficient use of water and environmental stewardship, including funding for salmon recovery. Seattle supports legislative efforts to address policy reform regarding municipal water rights, water right disputes, enhancement, and expansion of the state's trust water rights account, progress on water for instream flows and support for shared strategies on watershed planning.

- We oppose efforts to diminish municipal water rights.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Municipal Water Rights:** The Legislature passed **2E2SHB 1338**, the Municipal Water Rights bill, during the first special session and was signed by the Governor on June 20. This legislation is one of the most significant changes to the state's water code in the past 30 years. Changes to the water code include:

- Clarifies that municipal water utilities can use existing water rights (also known as flexible place of use) for their current service area.
- Allows uses of water within one's water right for environmental goals.
- Establishes new water conservation standards in statute for municipal utilities and those who use their water and imposes a fee to fund reviews by the state and the rulemaking process.
- Sets out a duty to serve for utilities when certain criteria are met and requires consistency with land use plans.
- Clarifies which system/suppliers are municipal utilities to include those that have been traditionally considered municipal utilities, such as PUDs and water and sewer districts.

The City of Seattle **supported** many of the changes outlined in this bill.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Watershed Planning:** **2E2SHB 1336** was introduced as a recommendation from the committee that reviewed the implementation of watershed planning agreements. This bill provides local planning units the ability to receive matching funds for implementation of their watershed agreements and requires that the implementation plans for the agreements be submitted to the Department of Ecology within one year of receiving matching funds. (See appropriations)

### **Other Bills of Interest**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Other Water Issues:** While compromise appeared to be reached on a bill to deal with issues related to how and where a groundwater well can be replaced (**HB 1337** and **SB 5023**), the bills were never brought to the floor during the special session.

There also appeared to be agreement on a bill (**HB 1317**) to amend the trust water laws to make them more likely to be a tool that would be used by water rights holders. The bill was never brought up during special session, but will certainly be discussed next year.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Fluoridation:** Two bills were introduced that would have made it more difficult for water systems to fluoridate their water supplies. **SHB 1068** would have required a public vote on fluoridation and **SB 5764** would have given the final authority on fluoridation to the elected authority in charge of the system, not the local board of health. Neither of these bills passed out of their house of origin.

### Passed Legislation

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Stormwater: **HB 2088** requires cities and other operators of wastewater utilities to give a ten percent discount on their rates to owners of commercial buildings that have rainwater-harvesting systems. This bill passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 20.

### Other Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Stormwater: **ESHB 1689** would have put together a process for the Department of Ecology to develop the permit for Phase II stormwater jurisdictions. The bill went through several iterations during the legislative session, but no agreement could be reached between the House and the Senate on the final bill. Despite passing both chambers with slightly different versions, the bill died on the last day of session. **SB 5645** was its companion measure.

- We oppose water infrastructure proposals that rely on inequitable revenue generation mechanisms to establish funding for a set of unidentified projects.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5014** passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 17. This bill creates a sub-account in the Public Works Trust Fund for water storage projects. The companion to this bill was HB 1533.

- The City of Seattle is committed to working with the Governor's Water Team, other governmental entities, and stakeholders to develop a regional water strategy through the Central Puget Sound Initiative (CPSI). We expect that the implementation of the strategy may rely on legislation, rule making, funding, and/or executive action.

# ***SESSION OBJECTIVES - 2003***

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Administrative Warrants**

The City supports legislation to allow courts to issue civil warrants for conducting housing, property, and health inspections in order to enforce the City's codes.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SSB 5108** was introduced in the Senate and made it to the Senate floor, but did not make it past cutoff. This bill would have limited the ability of government entities to access private property. This bill would have been a step backward in the city's ability to ensure the health and safety of its citizens. The City **opposed** this legislation.

### **Building Codes**

The City supports legislation to amend the State Building Code Act to allow adoption of current Building, Mechanical, Fire and Plumbing Codes for the State of Washington.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SHB 1734** overwhelmingly passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor on May 14. This bill revises the state building code by replacing uniform building, mechanical, and fire codes and standards published by the International Conference of Building Officials with the international building, residential, mechanical, and fire codes published by the International Code Council, Inc. A companion measure, **SSB 5855**, was also introduced, but it did not make it out of the Senate Land Use & Planning Committee. The City **supported** both of these bills.

### **Courts**

Seattle supports legislation to allow greater flexibility and efficiencies between District and Municipal Courts based on local needs.

#### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The Governor signed HB 1805, a bill changing the number of King County district court judges from 26 to 21, overwhelmingly passed out of both chambers, and on May 7 into law. **HB 1822** also dealt with this issue, but HB 1805 became the vehicle for reform. The City **supported** both bills.

#### **Other Bills of Interest**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5500**, a bill that facilitates the use of inter-local agreements for court services among municipalities, passed the Senate, but failed to move from the House Judiciary Committee. Its companion bill, **HB 1617**, also did not make it out of the House Judiciary Committee. The City **supported** both bills.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1503**, a bill that encourages the Office of the Administrator for the Courts to conduct performance audits, overwhelmingly passed out of the House but failed to move out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The City **opposed** this legislation.



## **Early Termination of Rental Agreements**

The City supports early termination of rental agreements for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. We also support efforts to protect victims from discrimination by landlords and screening services.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **EHB 1645**, relating to early termination of rental agreements, unanimously passed out of the House but failed to move out of the Senate Financial Services, Insurance & Housing Committee. Conversely, the companion bill, **SSB 5524** passed out of the Senate Financial Services, Insurance & Housing Committee but failed to move out of the Senate Rules Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

## **Education**

Seattle supports legislation that would allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district levies and bonds.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5072**, a bill providing for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district levies and bonds, did not pass out of the House Education Committee. **HB 1212**, a bill providing for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds, did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. **HJR 4203** a joint resolution calling for amending the state constitution to allow a simple majority for school district bond authorization did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. **HJR 4204** a joint resolution calling for amending the state constitution to allow a simple majority for school district levy authorization passed the House by a vote of 73-25 but did not move out of the Senate Education Committee. The City **supported** these bills.

## **Gambling**

While our agenda did not include specific language related to gambling expansion, a couple of bills were introduced in the area that would have had a significant impact on the city.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1667**, a bill clarifying local government land use and zoning powers over gambling activities, was unanimously passed out of the House and to the Senate Commerce & Trade Committee. The Senate did not take up further action on the bill. The City **supported** this bill.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1948** would allow 18,900 electronic scratch games and systems in facilities that cater to people 21 years and older. This bill failed to move out of the House Commerce & Trade Committee. The City **opposed** this legislation.

## **Public Safety**

The City supports efforts to amend the DUI Forfeiture statute to allow vehicles to be impounded upon an arrest or citation for a DUI if the defendant has at least one prior DUI conviction.

The City supports efforts to strengthen the statutes regarding admissibility of Breathalyzer tests in DUI cases.

**Legislative Action:** No action occurred relating to this specific issue.

## **Safe Firearm Storage**

Seattle supports legislation making it a gross misdemeanor to store or leave a loaded firearm where an unsupervised child is likely to gain access and obtain possession of the firearm (Whitney Graves).

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5317** and **HB 1791**, both declare a person guilty of reckless endangerment if the person stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where a child is likely to gain access of the loaded firearm both failed to move out of committee. The City **supported** both pieces of legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5316**, a bill regulating the sale of firearms at gun shows and events, and **HB 1321**, a bill requiring background checks at gun shows, both failed to move out of their respective committees. These bills were proposed to close the "gun show loophole." The City **supported** both pieces of legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5315**, a bill creating a ballistics-imaging database requiring firearm manufacturers to provide ballistics imaging or "fingerprinting" information on any gun sent to WA State for sale, also failed to move out of committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

## **Tax Increment Financing**

Seattle supports efforts to implement legislation that allows tax increment financing and other tools to attract and retain businesses and put underutilized property that might not otherwise be developed to productive use.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **2SSB 5364**, tax increment financing using new sales tax revenue, passed the Senate by a vote of 47-2 and but was not brought up for a vote on the House floor. **SHB 1281** did not pass out of the House Rules Committee. This issue was still being worked on throughout the special session did not move forward due to time constraints.

## **CAPITAL FUNDING**

### **Housing Trust Fund**

The City supports increasing available funding in the Housing Trust Fund used for low income and affordable housing, from \$78,000,000 per biennium to \$100,000,000.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The 2003-05 Capital Budget included \$80,000,000 in the Housing Trust Fund. Of this amount, \$8,000,000 is targeted for farm worker housing and another \$5,000,000 is targeted towards homeless shelters for families.

### **Seattle Center/McCaw Hall Funding**

The City supports continued State funding for Seattle Center Redevelopment Phase II that includes safety and code upgrades to public assembly facilities hosting the performing arts and community and regional festivals. The City is requesting \$6 million in the 2003-2005 capital budget.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The 2003-05 Capital Budget includes \$1,500,000 to help complete the construction of McCaw Hall. This amount is much lower than the \$4,500,000 originally proposed by the Governor and \$2,000,000 proposed by the Senate.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Mercury Reduction**

The City supports legislative efforts and executive action to encourage the phasing out of certain mercury-containing products, to establish manufacturer responsibility for handling these products, and to provide methods for reducing exposure to mercury.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: ESHB 1002**, a bill related to mercury reduction, passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by the Governor on May 14. The bill had appeared to be dead when the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee refused to have a hearing on the bill, even after it had passed the House unanimously. In a surprise move, in the second to the last week of session, the Senate relieved the Committee of further consideration of ESHB 1002 and passed the bill out of the Senate 47-1. The bill now requires labeling for florescent lamps that contain mercury; prohibits the sale of certain mercury-containing novelties, thermometers, motor vehicles, and thermostats; directs the Department of General Administration as to how mercury-containing products should be prioritized for state purchase; allows hospitals to purchase mercury if they have developed a mercury reduction plan; requires the Department of Health to develop a mercury disposal education plan and limits the school mercury-purchase ban to mercury used in science classrooms. The City **supported** ESHB 1002. Its companion bill, **SB 5124**, had a hearing in the Senate, but did not make it out of the committee.

### **Water**

The City of Seattle supports legislation that would allow the capture and use of rainwater for small-scale uses without the need for a water right permit.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: EHB 1376** is a bill related to the use of rain barrels, cisterns and other facilities for capturing rainwater. When originally introduced, the bill exempted facilities using a rainwater holding apparatus of 10,000 gallons or less. The bill was amended in the Senate to exempt all rainwater barrels, cisterns, ponds, or other storm water facilities, used for capturing runoff from residential, commercial, industrial properties or from public facilities, from a water right permit. The bill did not receive concurrence in the House before the end of the legislative session. The City **supported** this bill.

# **STATEMENT OF POLICY - 2003**

## **Air Quality**

We support maintaining and improving existing air quality levels to protect against adverse effects on humans, animals, and plants. We also support efforts to provide incentives that encourage the use of cleaner alternative fuel vehicles and high efficiency vehicles.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SSB 6072** provides money from a fee on motor vehicles to the regional clean air agencies to retrofit school buses with exhaust emission control devices, reduce vehicle emissions, reduce air contaminants, and to provide funding for fueling infrastructure to allow school bus fleets to use alternative cleaner fuels. Funds from the fee are also used for an escort tug at Neah Bay. This bill passed and the Governor signed the bill but included a partial veto of a section that would have eliminated an inspection fee on some out-of-state vehicles. This fee provides \$2.5 million in annual revenue to the state. The City **supported** this bill.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** A series of bills to encourage the use of bio-diesel fuels (**2SHB 1240**, **2SHB 1241**, **ESHB 1242**, and **ESHB 1243**) were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition is a major proponent of these bills. The City is a member of this coalition.

## **Civil Rights**

Everyone has the right to live, work and play free from discrimination. Seattle supports efforts to promote statewide protection to all class groups recognized by the City, to provide equal access to services and to eliminate all discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and lending practices. We support local control of practices that encourage business and job opportunities, especially for women and people of color. The City supports efforts to defend the constitutional civil rights such as right to read, right to privacy, right to travel, freedom from surveillance, freedom to dissent, and freedom from discrimination.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SHB 1809**, a bill amending the current law against discrimination to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, passed the House by a vote of 59-39, but did not pass out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

## **Economic Development**

We welcome initiatives that provide local government the tools necessary to attract and retain businesses and put underutilized property to productive use in our state, region, and city. We also support incentives for employers to promote wage progression and retention for workers that will increase job opportunities, especially for women and people of color.

**Legislative Action:** See Tax Increment Financing on page 10.

**Legislative Action:** There was a flurry of activity at the end of the special session related to Boeing and the effort to land the new 7E7 production line. Included in this activity is tax incentive legislation (**HB 2294**) that could save Boeing \$3 billion over the next 20 years if the 7E7 is built in Washington State.

**Legislative Action:** Homecare worker received a wage increase of 75 cents per hour beginning October 2003. The original proposal by the Governor, after a collective bargaining effort as approved by the voters in 2001, was for a \$2 per hour increase spread out over a two-year period.

## **Education**

We support efforts to increase K-12 funding, lower class size/increase the number of teachers, provide safe, modern schools to enhance the learning environment and provide flexibility at the school district level for greater use of resources based on local need. We also support efforts to increase access to higher education and job training, retain/attract high quality educators, and fund research that leads to economic development in our region and state.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 6058** amended Initiative 728, lowering class size through increased funding per student, by providing \$254 per student instead of \$450 as called for in the initiative. This resulted in a savings to the state of \$188 million. The Governor signed this bill on June 20.

**SB 6059** approved the suspension of Initiative 732, providing COLA's to K-12 and higher education employees, which was included in the operating budget providing a savings to the state of \$473 million. The Governor signed this bill on June 20.

Higher education operating costs statewide were reduced by \$131 million during the biennium, which will be partially offset by tuition increases of 7 percent each year for undergraduate students. For all other students the school governing boards will decide the appropriate levels as called for in **ESSB 5448** signed by the Governor on May 12.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1082**, a bill creating a housing allowance program for non-supervisory educational employees, did not move from the House Appropriations Committee.

## **Elections**

We support legislation that provides local jurisdictions more flexibility on election issues, which includes allowing a local campaign-matching program for campaign donations in exchange for limits on campaign spending.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SHB 1129** allows public officials to use public facilities to prepare "objective and fair" presentation of facts on the impact a ballot proposition may have on the office or agency if such activities are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency. The bill passed out of the House 92-4 and passed out of the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee, but did not come up for a vote on the Senate floor.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5185** would have placed additional constraints on local governments on how they could conduct their public meetings. The bill passed out of the Senate 25-24, but did not make it out of the House State Government Committee. **SB 5151** dealt with the same topic and did not make it out of committee. The City **opposed** both of these bills.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1390**, relating to instant runoff voting, passed the House, but did not make it out of the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. The companion bill, **SB 5556**, did not make it out of its committee of origin.

## **Energy**

We support efforts to protect and enhance our publicly owned electric utility, Seattle City Light, so that it can continue to provide low-cost, reliable, environmentally sound electric power to its residential, commercial, and industrial customers. We also support continued state assistance for low-income consumers of energy.

We will support the development of a long-term energy strategy that includes planning for adequate energy capacity and supply, support for improved energy efficiency and the development of reasonable economic renewable energy resources, and continued improvement in EFSEC siting rules. The City will continue to take a leadership role on efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

We will work with our state and other partners to resist federal efforts for a FERC-imposed Regional Transmission Organization and Standard Market Design.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **ESHB 1845** exempts financial account numbers, such as credit card and bank account numbers, from the public disclosure laws. The bill passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 7. The companion bill was **SB 5718**.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **BPA: SJM 8000**, requesting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to withdraw its standard market design proposal, and **SJM 8012**, requesting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to withdraw a new pricing policy proposal, both passed the legislature.

### **Other Bills of Interest**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **Renewables:** Three bills related to renewable energy were heard during the session. **SHB 1544** would have put in place conservation standards that utilities would need to meet and would require that utilities meet a portion of their load through renewables. A version of this bill passed out of the House Technology, Telecommunications & Energy Committee, but did not make it out of the House Appropriations Committee. **SHB 1703** would have provided tax incentives to promote the production and distribution of electricity from alternative sources of energy. The bill passed out of House Technology, Telecommunications & Energy Committee, but did not make it out of the House Finance Committee. **HB 1775** declares a need to examine the viability and feasibility of wind generation by identifying and assessing obstacles to its growth and utilization. The bill did not pass out of House Technology, Telecommunications & Energy Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Neither **HJM 4003** nor **SJM 8001**, requesting increase borrowing authority for the Bonneville Power Administration, passed the legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5268** would require utilities to report on their bills the portion of the bill that was going for fish protection costs. The bill passed out of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee but did not make it to the Senate floor.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SHB 1005**, creating a task force to study long-term energy supply, passed out of the House, but did not receive further consideration in the Senate.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **E2SHB 2119**, creating a climate action registry for the state, passed the House, but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.

## **Hazardous Waste**

The City supports cleaning up hazardous waste sites through the maintenance of the Local Toxics Control Account, additional state technical assistance to local governments

for the handling, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and efforts to establish product stewardship for consumer electronic equipment such as computers and televisions.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1942**, related to product stewardship of computers and other consumer electronics, received a hearing, but did not pass out of the House Fisheries Ecology & Parks Committee.

## **Housing**

The City supports efforts to provide affordable and safe housing for all income levels and incentives for developing low and moderate-income housing. We also support efforts to maintain and increase shelter facilities and programs. The City also supports additional tools to provide more flexibility and options to local jurisdictions to set landlord/tenant laws other than the regulation of rents.

We support legislation to reform condominium liability laws to address problems with condominium cladding without diminishing the investment of condominium owners. Condominiums are an important element in urban and infill development and uncertainty with insurance coverage for their development has adversely affected the region's ability to finance and construct condominiums.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5389**, a bill managing clean and sober housing, overwhelmingly passed both chambers and on May 20 was signed into law by the Governor. **HB 1472**, a bill related to more effectively managing clean and sober housing, was also introduced, and passed the House 87-7. SB 5389 became the vehicle to deal with this issue. The City **supported** both of these pieces of legislation.

### **Other Bills of Interest**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1012**, allowing delivery of legal documents by certified mail to the address posted on the property owner's tax statement, or address provided to the tenant for payment of rent if the physical location of the landlord cannot be determined, unanimously passed the House. The bill did not move out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1717** clarifies the way in which a landlord can charge a tenant separately for water and wastewater services through apportionment of the bill and requires landlords, if asked, to provide copies of past bills. This bill passed out of the House. No further action was taken in the Senate. The Seattle City Council is also addressing this issue.

## **Human Services**

We support efforts to provide our citizens, especially children, the resources to maintain a viable and stable community including strengthening programs that provide food to all citizens while focusing on children, elderly, homeless, immigrants, and disabled persons. We support enhanced opportunities for poverty relief and upward mobility including wage progression strategies and training/education efforts. We also support efforts to enhance support services to caretakers of children, elderly and disabled persons, and childcare to families with income up to 225% of the poverty line.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1009**, a bill prohibiting the sale of violent computer and video games to minors, passed out of the House (81-16) and Senate (42-7). On May 20, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1028**, a bill that directs studying programs for at-risk youth intervention, unanimously passed out of both the House and the Senate. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1233** and companion bill **SB 5823**, improving services for kinship caregivers, was overwhelmingly passed out of both the House and the Senate. On May 14, the Governor signed both bills into law. A related bill, **SB 5474** creating a kinship caregiver's authorization affidavit, passed both chambers, but with different versions and an agreement could not be reached between the two chambers before the end of regular session. The City **supported** these bills.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** The House and Senate, unanimously passed **HB 1784**, a bill improving coordination of services for children's mental health. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** the House and Senate, unanimously passed **HB 1787**, a bill establishing a 211 network. On May 7, the Governor signed the bill into law. A companion bill, **SB 5692**, was also introduced. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5223**, a bill authorizing mental health advance directives, overwhelmingly passed the Senate and House. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law. **HB 1041** was the companion measure. The City **supported** this legislation.

#### Other Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1070**, a bill changing the age of consent for minors receiving chemical dependency and mental health treatment, failed to move out of the Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1272**, a bill requesting proposals to design a new administrative and service delivery infrastructure for local social and health, failed to move out of the Children & Family Services Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1465**, a bill modifying exemptions of temporary assistance for needy families, failed to move out of the Children & Family Services Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1718**, a bill revising provisions relating to treatment of minors, did not move out of the House Rules Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 2114**, a bill providing for funding of programs for family preservation and intervention services, passed the House by a 65-29 vote. No action was taken in the Senate Children, Family Services & Corrections Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 2225**, a bill concerning basic health care plan enrollment, failed to move out of Appropriations Committee.

### **Land Use Statutes, Smart Growth and Infrastructure Funding**

The City supports the use of the Growth Management Act (GMA) as the primary means of planning for growth in our city, region, and state and the further integration and streamlining of state land use and related statutes including the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Growth Management Act (GMA), Shoreline Management Act (SMA), and Land Use Petition Act (LUPA). We support efforts to promote the integration of land use and transportation and protect local government's authority to require mitigation for new development. We oppose legislation weakening these statutes, promoting sprawl, or adding financial burdens to local governments through unfunded mandates.



### Passed Legislation

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Annexation: **SB 5409** passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 16. This bill provides for an alternative to the petition method of annexation, which was declared unconstitutional by the WA State Supreme Court. This bill was supported by a wide coalition of cities, counties, business, environmental, and smart growth interests. Its companion bill, **HB 1231**, passed the House but did not move out of the Senate. The City **supported** this bill.

**SHB 1755** deals with annexations of islands, pieces of unincorporated county land surrounded by entirely by one or more cities. The bill was amended to make it only applicable to the six buildable lands counties, which includes King County. The Governor signed this legislation on April 27.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Shorelines: **SHB 1769**, the original vehicle for shoreline statute revision passed the House, but did not make it out of the Senate. **SSB 6012** was originally introduced to codify the shoreline regulations that had been in place since 1972. While this version passed the Senate, it was clear that it would not move in the House as is. Instead, the House amended the provisions of SHB 1769 onto SSB 6012. SSB 6012 then went to the Senate where it passed. Under the legislation the City of Seattle would be required to have a new shoreline management plan by December 1, 2009, if funding is available from the state, otherwise the update would be required in December 2014. The Governor signed the bill on May 14.

**SHB 1933** establishes that the integration of the goals and policies of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) into the Growth Management Act (GMA) does not create an order of priority among the planning goals of the GMA makes the policies, goals, and provisions of the SMA the basis for determining compliance of a master program with the GMA specifies additional protection and statutory jurisdiction provisions for critical areas, and limits the master program review authority of Growth Management Hearing Boards. The Governor signed the bill on May 15.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Public Works Trust Fund: **HB 1063** passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor on April 4. This bill provides the list of projects to be funded by the Public Works Trust Fund. The City received \$10 million for work on the Fremont Bridge approaches. **SB 5300** was its companion measure.

### Other Bills of Interest

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5689**, which would have required interlocal agreements between cities and counties before annexations, could take place, did not make it out of the Senate Land Use & Planning Committee. **HB 1801** would have authorized an alternative method of annexation based on utility agreements. This bill passed the House, but did not make it out of the Senate Land Use & Planning Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Several bills were introduced to expand the projects eligible for the public works trust fund. **HB 1141** and **SB 5114** would have made parks projects eligible and **HB 1520** would have made correctional facilities eligible. None of these bills made it out of committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5307** requires that local governments make permit decisions within 120 days or the permit would be considered approved. The bill passed the Senate, but was amended in the House Local Government Committee and did not make it to the House floor. The City **opposed** this bill.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1171** would have required the state to adopt a policy to incorporate green building principles in the construction and renovation of major facilities by state agencies, public higher education institutions, and local school districts. The bill did not make it out of the House Capital Budget Committee.

## **Library**

While our agenda did not include specific language related to libraries, a couple of bills were introduced in this area that would have had a significant negative impact on the library governance structure.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SSB 5150**, which would require elections of library trustees, was amended on the Senate floor to set up a process for removal of a library trustee. This process would allow a citizen petition to put forward a ballot measure to remove an appointed library trustee. This bill passed the Senate, but died in the House. **HB 1417** was its companion measure, but this bill did not move forward. The City **opposed** these bills.

## **Parks**

While our agenda did not include specific language related to parks, a couple of bills were introduced in this area that would have had a potential impact on the City.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** There were several different bills that would have amended the conservation futures statute, changing the amount of the levy and allowing a portion of the funds to be used for operations and maintenance. These bills, **HB 1140**, **SB 5113**, **HB 1411**, and **SB 5140**, did not make it out of their respective chambers.

## **Public Health**

The State of Washington must work to ensure that all persons, especially children, have access to health care. We must continue to use tobacco settlement funding for health care and tobacco cessation programs while continuing the effort to eliminate tobacco use by minors. All persons should have access to drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment on demand.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Prescription Drugs: A number of bills (**HB 1214**, **HB 1241**, **SB 5383**, **SB 5406**, **SB 5489**, **SB 5904**) relating to affordable prescription drugs were approved by the House and Senate. However, agreement was reached during the first special session when the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed a form of prescription drug legislation in **SB 6088**. The bill authorizes state agencies to establish an evidence-based prescription drug program. The program may include a preferred drug list, to which agencies must provide reasonable exceptions. The bill also directs the Health Care Authority to negotiate prescription drug price discounts for state agencies and for any Washington resident who is at least 50, or between 19-49 and disabled, whose family income does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level and whose existing prescription drug need is not covered by insurance. Participants are charged an enrollment fee. The program is subject to sunset review and termination on June 30, 2010.

The Health Care Authority also must establish a Pharmacy Connection program through which health care providers and members of the public can obtain information and help in accessing manufacturer-sponsored prescription drug assistance programs. Finally, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is to design, and seek any federal waiver necessary to implement, a Medicaid prescription drug assistance program. The program is available to any person eligible for Medicare or age 65 and older, whose family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. It terminates within 12 months after implementation of any Medicare prescription drug benefit. Each of the state's area agencies on aging must implement a program to inform and train persons 65 and older in the safe and appropriate use of prescription and nonprescription medications. To further this purpose, DSHS will award a

development grant averaging up to \$25,000 to each of the agencies. The Governor signed the bill on June 26. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5039**, a bill concerning Hepatitis C, unanimously passed both the House and the Senate. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law. The City **supported** this legislation.

#### *Other Bills of Interest*

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1375**, a bill eliminating basic health plan eligibility of persons holding student visas, was unanimously passed out of the House. The Senate did not take action on this bill.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1866**, a bill improving nutrition in public schools, was referred by the House Health Care Committee to the Appropriations Committee where it failed to move.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1868**, a bill prohibiting smoking in public places, received a majority pass from the Health Committee but failed to move out of the House Rules Committee. The companion bill, **SB 5791**, failed to move out of the Health & Long-Term Care Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 2019**, a bill revising provisions for non-subsidized basic health plan coverage, narrowly passed out of the House by a 52-45 vote. The bill failed to move out of the Health & Long Term Care Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5597**, a bill prohibiting tobacco product sampling, passed out of the Senate by a vote of 42-7. This bill failed to move out of the House Finance Committee. The City **supported** this legislation.

### **Public Safety**

Seattle strives to assure that people feel safe in their homes, businesses and on the streets. The City supports efforts to protect citizens from all crimes and specifically domestic violence, sexual assaults and stalking. We support local control for firearm safety measures and closing gun show loopholes, efforts to relieve the adult and juvenile justice systems through prevention and early intervention programs and increased access to substance and mental health treatment.

#### *Passed Legislation*

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1001**, a bill revising voyeurism laws, unanimously passed the House and Senate. On May 12, the Governor signed the bill into law. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1218**, bills creating a building mapping information system, overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate. On May 7, the Governor signed the bill into law. The companion bill was **SB 5269**.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1232**, a bill requiring jail booking fees to be based on actual costs, overwhelmingly passed both the House and the Senate. On May 7, the Governor signed this bill into law. The City **supported** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1455**, a bill licensing and regulating money transmission and currency exchange unanimously passed both the House and the Senate. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1609**, a bill requiring a plan to establish pilot regional correctional facilities, unanimously passed out of both the House and Senate. On May 14, the Governor signed the bill into law. Its companion bill was **SB 5588**.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5001**, a bill revising the felony murder statute, overwhelmingly passed out of the House and the Senate. On February 12, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5570**, a bill expanding the crime of communicating with minors for immoral purposes, unanimously passed out of both the Senate and the House. On April 16, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5990**, a bill changing times and supervision standards for release of offenders overwhelmingly passed both the Senate and House. On May 20, the Governor signed the bill into law.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Secure community transition facilities: SB 5550**, a bill prohibiting secure community transition facilities from being sited near public and private youth camps, was successfully signed into law **HB 1099** is the companion bill.

Several other bills were also introduced to restrict the siting of these facilities. **HB 1087**, a bill limiting locations for secure community transition facilities, and **HB 1107**, a bill siting secure community transition facilities away from campgrounds, youth camps, and private residences, failed to pass out of the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee. **SB 5047**, a bill limiting siting of secure residential facilities for sexually violent predators to properties zoned for industrial use, failed to move out of the Senate Rules Committee. The City **opposed** this legislation. **SB 5116**, a bill requiring consideration of home-based instruction when siting secure community transition facilities, failed to move out of the Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee.

#### *Other Bills of Interest*

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1040**, a bill removing the statute of limitations on childhood sexual abuse civil cases, did not pass out of the Rules Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1054**, a bill specifying circumstances under which a clergy must report child abuse or neglect, passed out of the House by a vote of 62-35. The Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections Committee did not act on this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1118**, a bill allowing local option penalties for public drinking, did not pass out of the House.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1210**, a bill enacting the Washington Antiterrorism Act of 2003, passed out of the House by a 77-20 vote. The Senate amended and passed the bill by a 37-12 vote and sent the bill back to the House however, no further action occurred.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1485**, a bill changing provisions relating to auto theft, was referred on February 18, 2003 by the Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee to the Appropriations Committee. The bill failed to move out of the Appropriations Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1517**, a bill establishing objectives for certain fire department services, narrowly passed out of the House by vote of 52-46. The Senate did not take action on this legislation. The City **opposed** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1771**, a bill providing for financial restitution to victims of sexual assault from inmate funds and wages, failed to move out of the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1949**, a bill providing financial assistance for victims of domestic violence seeking protection orders, failed to move out of the House Juvenile Justice & Family Law Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SB 5627**, a bill allowing confessions and other admissions to be admitted into evidence if substantial independent evidence establishes the trustworthiness of the statement, unanimously passed out of the Senate. The House did not take action on this legislation.

## **Revenue**

Seattle supports efforts to enact comprehensive reform of the Washington State tax system to provide revenue stability for cities and counties and a more progressive state tax structure.

The Gates Commission released its report on Washington's tax structure in mid-December; however, very little action occurred in this area during the legislative session.

**Legislative Action: SHB 1737** would update and simplify the tax statutes by repealing outdated tax preferences. This bill passed the House by a vote of 95-3 but failed to move from the Senate Rules Committee.

**Legislative Action: SHB 1869** would require periodic performance audits of tax exemptions, exclusions, or deductions to determine if their continued existence will serve the public interest. This bill passed the House by a vote of 59-38 but failed to move out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

## **Solid Waste**

As a national leader on this issue, we continue to support development of common standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities, and legislative initiatives to increase waste reduction and recycling. This will include efforts related to composting, and encourages state and local government to cooperate in finding adequate and stable markets for recyclable and recycled products.

### **Other Bills of Interest**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1705** would have included a 75-cent per tire fee on the price of tires that would be used for tire recycling programs. This bill made it out of the House, but did not make it out of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: HB 1994** would require notification that clopyralid had been used on materials supplied to composting facilities. This bill received a hearing in the House Fisheries, Ecology & Parks Committee, but did go any further.

## **Telecommunications**

We believe that the participation of local governments in state actions that impact regulation of telecommunications is critical, especially in areas such as rights-of-way management, zoning and land use, and taxation as well as telecommuting, electronic networking, and other technological opportunities. We oppose any state preemption of authorities historically and traditionally vested in local governments over the management of local public rights-of-way and taxing authority.

### **Passed Legislation**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION: SHB 1624** made the Washington Telephone Assistance Program permanent and allowed funding to be used for Community Voicemail. The bill passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on May 7. **SB 5591** was its companion bill.

### **Other Bills of Interest**

The Sound Transit right-of-way bill was introduced again this year. Please see discussion of this issue on page 2 under Transportation.

## **Transportation**

Congestion relief is a priority for citizens in this region. We support all efforts to reduce the ongoing transportation problems throughout the city, region, and state particularly when there is a safety risk involved. These efforts should include local revenue distribution and provide funding options, and increasing transportation choices such as bus, rail, HOV lanes, bus rapid transit, or other multi-modal options. We support efforts to provide HOV lanes throughout the region using the current operating standards.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **HB 1382** and **SB 5121** would open the HOV lanes to all traffic during non-peak hours. Peak hours are defined as 6-9 AM and 3-6 PM Monday through Friday. These bills did not pass. The City **opposed** this legislation.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** **SB 5605** allows drivers to purchase a \$500 permit to drive in the HOV lanes even if one person is in the car. This legislation did not move out of the Senate Highways & Transportation Committee.

## **Tribal Governments**

The City encourages other local governments to respect the unique sovereign status of tribes, understanding their limited ability to create a sufficient tax base and reliance on other sources of revenue to operate programs for the benefit of their people. The City also encourages other local governments to respect the tribal intent to continue to rely heavily on a natural resource based economy, which supports their culture. The City also encourages other governments to appreciate the significance of tribal cultural resources when proposing and or undertaking ground-disturbing activities.